28th November 1928]

A.—Section 200 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, and section 305 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, lay down that drafts of rules shall be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, and that such drafts shall not be further proceeded with until six weeks after such publication or until such later date as the Local Government may appoint. The period of six weeks will run from the date of publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette.*

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government will reconsider the question and modify the rules so as to give an opportunity for the notifications being published in the district gazettes in proper time ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I shall consider the suggestion."

Excise

Details regarding the anti-drink propaganda by Government.

*782 *Q.*—Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps he has so far taken from the time of his assumption of his office in the matter of giving effect to the Council's resolution of introducing prohibition in 20 years ;

(*b*) whether the Government have formulated detailed proposals regarding the anti-drink propaganda work, and if so, what they are ;

(*c*) if not, how long the Government will take to arrive at all those details ;

(*d*) whether the Government have allotted any funds for the propaganda work ; if so, how much ; if not, why not ;

(*e*) how many shops of toddy and liquor respectively districtwar have been closed in the years from 1922 to 1928, and for what reasons, if any ;

(*f*) how many such shops were closed as they could not be sold in auction ;

(*g*) (1) what is the personnel of the Excise Advisory Committee ; (2) whether they have submitted any report and whether it is unanimous ; if not, who are the dissenting members ; and (3) whether the Government are now in a position to place on the table of the House the proposals of the Committee with that of the dissenting members ; if not, why not ;

(*h*) how many municipalities and local boards have since passed and forwarded to Government resolutions advocating total prohibition in their local areas and which they are ; and

(*i*) what action has been taken by the Government to give effect to such resolutions ?

A.—(*a*), (*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) The hon. Member is referred to the answers to clause (*a*) of question No. 76 and to question No. 565 given at the meetings of the Legislative Council held on 4th September 1928 and 12th October 1928, respectively.

(*e*) & (*f*) The hon. Member is referred to statement B in the Excise Administration reports which have been published. The Government have no information beyond that contained in these statements and have called for a report.

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(g) (1) The following is the personnel of the Excise Advisory Committee :—

President.

(1) The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar, Minister for Public Health.

Members.

(2) M.R.Ry. S. N. Dorai Raja Avargal, M.L.C.
(3) " K. Krishnan Avargal, M.L.C.
(4) " Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu Garu, M.L.C.
(5) " Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan Avargal, M.L.C.
(6) " Daniel Thomas Avargal, M.L.C.
(7) " K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar Avargal, M.L.C.
(8) Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur, M.L.C.
(9) J. A. Davis, Esq., M.L.C.
(10) W. O. Wright, Esq., M.L.C.

(2) & (3) The Excise Advisory Committee has not submitted any report.

(h) & (i) The Government have not received any such resolutions.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"With reference to the answer to clauses (a), (b) and (c) I find that the answer is that the subject is still under consideration. I want to know . . . "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Questions to test the accuracy of answers given cannot be treated as supplementary questions."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Sir, I am asking the Government to throw some light on the answer already given. I want to know what steps the Government propose to take in the matter."

Thn hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"The answer has been given on a former occasion."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—"May I know whether several municipal and local boards have not passed resolutions that the shops should be altogether removed from their limits."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"Government have not received any such resolution."

Location of arrack shops at Nallagatla, Battulur and Erraguntla.

*783 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) when the arrack shops at Nallagatla, Battulur and Erraguntla of the Sirvel taluk of the Kurnool district were opened ;

(b) whether these villages are situated on the same road namely on the Chittoor-Kurnool road ; and

(c) what the distance from Nallagatla to Battulur and from Battulur to Erraguntla is ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) A report has been called for.